



## Legal Studies News

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David Williams – President (2007–2008)

Sarah Eaton-Vice President (2007-2008)

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### Chair Notes and Departmental Update

The semester has rapidly come to a close. As students scramble to complete their final assignments and prepare for examinations, great things continue to occur within the Department of Legal Studies. I would like to take a little time to share with you some of the major events.

**December Graduation:** I am very pleased to announce that 32 students will be graduating this fall from the Legal Studies program. I am extremely proud of all the students' hard work and

wish them the best in their future endeavors.

**Master of Criminal Justice degree:** I am excited to announce that the first semester of the University of Mississippi Criminal Justice Masters Program will begin in January. Best of luck to all the graduate students and faculty.

**Career Fair:** We are very pleased to report that the Legal Studies career fair was quite a success this past October. A great many students attended the fair and were able to meet with a wide range of criminal justice, military, and legal agencies ranging from

city to federal levels. Students were given the opportunity to network and to present their resumes to agencies that they might be interested in working for once they graduate. Information was also available regarding various employment opportunities and internship programs at the agencies.

There were several agencies which attended this year for the first time. They were the FBI, Austin (TX) Police Department, Gulfport Police Department, Tunica County Sheriff's Department, US Marine Corps, Navy ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Yerby Center with Tim Angle, and the Law Office of Mitchell, McNutt and Sams.

Several of the agencies in attendance are in constant need of new hires. They include, but are not limited to, Tupelo Police Department, Shelby County (TN) Police Department, and Mississippi Department of Corrections.

We are very excited for next year's fair and hope that it will be as much of a success as this one was. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the career fair,

please contact the Legal Studies Department.



**Officers from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office strike a pose at the 2007 career fair.**



**Students were able to meet with many different agencies while attending the Legal Studies career fair.**



The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics was one of the many agencies who attended the career fair.



David Williams and Elijah Myrick take a moment to visit with Dr. David McElreath at the career fair.

**Endowment:** Dr. Quarles continues to direct the Department's endowment efforts with great success. As a graduate of our program, I can assure you that your contributions to the Department make a difference.

### Uncommon Careers for CJ Majors

The Legal Studies Newsletter will be introducing criminal justice careers that are not commonly thought of by CJ majors. In this issue of the newsletter, we are going to look at a Criminologist. According to the Princeton Review, a Criminologist studies normal social behaviors and how certain factors influence deviation from that norm. They work with law enforcement offices (both local and federal), and analyze the behavior and methods of criminals for a variety of reasons: to increase the chances of criminals being apprehended; to predict patterns and motives for behaviors in certain demographic groups; and to assess the responsiveness of crime to various methods of law enforcement. These duties border on the territory of the statistician, and many of the same skills are required of the criminologist, but the additional analytic component of psychological insight and sociological patterns of behavior make this profession unique. Criminologists' duties can be as distant from police work as reviewing a pattern of behavior among a certain demographic group and writing a profile of the pressures that increase that behavior. Or they

may involve going to crime scenes, attending autopsies, and questioning potential suspects to see if they fall into the general psychological profile constructed of the suspect for that crime. One criminologist said the work can be “gruesome,” but the type of personality that likes the intellectual task of understanding patterns and deviations from patterns is well challenged in this profession; a number of respondents included the word “fascinating” in their description.

## Faculty News and Updates

### **The Justice Society**

Many of our students were unable to get funding as criminal justice majors. The scholarships just were not in our field. Today, criminal justice, homeland security, corrections, and paralegal students are all able to seek scholarships funded by our graduates and our faculty. Almost all of our faculty and our adjunct instructors are currently helping to fund these efforts. We solicit all of our graduates for help. If you want to make a difference in your alma mater, please send a financial contribution restricted for the use

of the Legal Studies Department. You can help us make a difference. We need your help and hope that you will respond today.



**Dr. Chester Quarles**

I want you to help us raise more money. If you send a pledge or a check to the *OLE MISS FOUNDATION* and put on the check “For the Exclusive Use of the Legal Studies Department,” you will help us create more scholarship aid and resource development.

After writing the check, please send it to me Chester Quarles, Legal Studies Department, Odom 205, University, Mississippi 38677. I will insure that your donation is placed in the appropriate departmental account and is used exclusively for criminal justice, homeland

security, corrections and paralegal development.

### **Ranatza Named Assistant Director at LSA**

Michael A. Ranatza was named the assistant executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association (LSA) office in Baton Rouge in late August, according to Hal Turner, LSA executive director.

In making the announcement Turner said, "Mike's long professional relationship with the LSA and his knowledge of the sheriffs and their needs, combined with his excellent qualifications and a long record of achievements in local and state governments were an ideal fit for him to join the LSA executive staff."

Ranatza, age 54, served as the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) for 23 years, a position to which he had been appointed six times by governors in four administrations. The distinguished 52-member crime commission represents the interests of law enforcement,

judiciary, and corrections officials from throughout Louisiana. Overseeing a staff of 55 personnel, Ranatza was responsible for the distribution of 80 million dollars in grants to local and state criminal justice agencies for use in an array of programs such as providing support and leadership to criminal justice officials, the oversight of training for law enforcement officers, and administering the Crime Victims Reparations Program. Ranatza, an impressive figure of a man who has a quiet, but thoughtful manner of speech, says, "The success we had at the commission was because we dealt with everyone as though they were our constituents... It was always about people and service, and it was a good fit for me to come here to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association because it, too, is about people and service. It's also what I like doing best. For me, it isn't work. You don't go anywhere in a profession if, at the end of the day, you've not been able to have a certain sense that you were able to help someone."

Ranatza never wavered from his boyhood dream at age 12 when he told friends that he would one

day become police chief of Harahan. And he did so. He also made law enforcement his life's work. His strong public service philosophy developed early in life when he was elected Harahan's police chief at age 24. He served for six years. There, he discovered that his agency was not able to participate in or benefit from some of the services of the LCLE. He realized the Commission did not represent all elements of the criminal justice system. That combined with his stint as president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police and his academic background in Public Administration and Criminal Justice brought his appointment as executive director to the LCLE by then Governor Edwin Edwards.

"It's easier for me now because law enforcement is my chosen profession, and I get to work with some of the most interesting and unique people in the world - - the sheriffs of Louisiana.

"Take all the education and professional experience that I've obtained, the best that I like is helping people. And everything that I've done has been in that direction."

Michael A. Ranatza graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1975 with a BPA in Criminal Justice and received his MCJ in 1976. We are extremely proud of the fact that he is an alumnus of the Criminal Justice program here at Ole Miss.

### **Paralegal Update**

Our Paralegal Program continues to grow under the direction of Professor Angie Williams.



**Professor Angie Williams**

A listserv has been created for all current students and recent past graduates of the Paralegal Studies Program. The purpose of the listserv is to post job announcements and other information of interest to Paralegal Studies majors. To subscribe to the listserv, send an email message to [md@listserv.olemiss.edu](mailto:md@listserv.olemiss.edu) with the line "subscribe bps" in the

message body. The subject field should be blank. After you have subscribed to the listserv, you may post messages by sending them to [bps@listserv.olemiss.edu](mailto:bps@listserv.olemiss.edu).

### **Outreach News: The Johnson Report**



**Jeff Johnson**

The DeSoto campus has been involved with a number of activities since the last time that I wrote an article. In the fall semester we kicked off the fall semester by creating a student organization (Students For Justice) that has been active in raising money for charity, as well as sending care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The SFJ is an organization that is not exclusive for Legal Studies majors, but includes students from Ole Miss, Northwest

Mississippi Community College and Southwest Tennessee Community College students. The basis of the organization is to support the community. For more information, please read the article by President Rhonda Vance.

In February we will be kicking off our own newsletter known as the APB (All Points Bulletin) whose purpose will be to keep the students (current and prospective) aware of any important dates and news.

### **STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE SFJ President: Rhonda Vance**

Message from the SFJ President:

My name is Rhonda Vance and I live in Hernando, MS with my husband, Darin and our two year old son, Denton. I am a senior here at the University of Mississippi and am also the current President of a new student organization, Students For Justice. Our main goal in SFJ is to promote community service among legal studies students. I believe that it is important for all of us to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate than us in our community.

The SFJ recently raised money for The House of Grace, a domestic violence shelter in DeSoto County. SFJ will continue throughout this year to volunteer and raise money for charities such as The House of Grace. I would ask that all Criminal Justice and Paralegal majors attend one of our meetings and find out what you can do to help better our community.

**Advisor:** Jeff Johnson

**Officers:** President- Rhonda Vance, **Vice President-** Heather Green, **Secretary-** Sally Goodin  
**Treasurer-** Veronica White

Students for Justice (SFJ) is the newest student organization at the UM-DeSoto campus. Paralegal and Criminal Justice majors are actively involved in community service projects and professional development opportunities through this group. During the fall semester, they created awareness about domestic violence and raised money for The House of Grace, a shelter for abused women. Another project that they worked on during the school year was sending care packages to U.S. troops stationed overseas.



### **Students for Justice**

***ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI MEMBERS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS!***

The Department of Legal Studies is in the process of compiling a comprehensive database of our alumni members and criminal justice professionals to use as a resource bank and for future mailings. Please send us your business cards so we can begin to organize the database. Send your business cards to **Carol Reid**, Department of Legal Studies, Room 203 Odom Hall, University, MS, 38677. If you have questions, please contact Carol at 915-7902.

The Legal Studies Student Association wants continuous input from our students, alumni, and other interested persons to make the newsletter an ongoing and valuable resource for its recipients! Let us know what is going on with you and provide us with other items of interest that

we could include in the next issue.

### **December Graduation!**

The Legal Studies Department is proud to announce its graduating students for the 2007 Fall Semester. Legal Studies is proud to announce 32 new graduates.

The 11 students graduating with a **Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement** are: Waylon Banks, Michael Berthay, Linsey Bost, Amanda Doran, Lee Harris, Samuel Howard, Christy Johnson, Nifiteria Johnson, Isabelle Peacock, Chad Smith, and Makeela Wells.

The 11 students graduating with a **Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice with an Emphasis in Homeland Security** are: Byron Bellman, Edward Cagle, Stacy Campbell, Jessica Cantrell, Heather Crum, Jessica Davis, Sean DiGeorge, James Duvall, Elijah Myrick, Christopher Shepherd, and Chris Umfress.

The 4 students graduating with a **Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice with an**

**emphasis in Corrections** are: Kerry Curtis, Tatorie Howell, Peter Lantz, and Latonya Young.

The 4 Students graduating with a **Bachelors of Paralegal Studies** are: Rachel Hodges, Tracey Lively, Brooke Pettit, and Kimberly Slaughter.

The Legal Studies Department wishes to recognize and congratulate these students for their hard work through school. Good Luck Graduates!

### **Calendar of Coming Events**

1. **Applied Sciences Career Fair**
2. **CJ 445 Comparative Justice Class over Spring Break.**

### **Applied Sciences Order/The Justice Society**



The Department of Legal Studies would like to encourage our alumni members to join **The Justice Society /Applied Sciences Order**. By joining such a distinguished group, you will be serving as a vital component in the growth of the Department as well as contributing to an endowment for our students to receive financial assistance. For more

information about joining the Order, please contact **Dr. Chester Quarles** at (662) 915-5413 or via e-mail at [cquarles@olemiss.edu](mailto:cquarles@olemiss.edu).

We proudly recognize our current members of **the Applied Sciences Order/ The Justice Society** and would like to add your name to this list.

1. Walter D. Gurley (2004)
2. Danny Covington (2004)
3. Karen and Randy Corban (2004)
4. Bonnie and David McElreath (2004)
5. Dot and Chester Quarles (PhD) (2004)
6. Jan and John Bounds (2004)
7. Lindy and Jeff Johnson (2004)
8. Linda and Jeff Davis (2004)
9. Jeanette and Stephen Mallory (PhD) (2005)
10. Lisa and Robert Cox (2005)
11. Chief Kenneth R. Winter (2005)
12. Tracy and Arthur Chancellor (2005)
13. Susan and James Warren, Jr. (2005)
14. Rev. Larry E. Finger (2005)
15. Dr. Lorri and Mike Williamson (2005)
16. Adam Peacock (2005)
17. Scott and Billie Stringer (2005)
18. Deborah and Jeff Todd (2005)
19. Lorie and Scott Roberts (2005)
20. Jackie and Ronald Tannehill (PhD) (2005)
21. Mandy and Danny Hall (JD) (2005)
22. Sheridan Maiden (2005)
23. Anne K. Ayles (2005)
24. Col. Jack E. Owen (USMC Ret) (2006)
25. Kay and Robert Fox (2006)
26. Whitney (Cantrell) and Gray Nickels (2006)
27. Richard Martin (2006)
28. Joan and Gary Bayens (2006)
29. Lieutenant Catory Bradley (USA) (2006)
30. Terry and John Lyons (2006)
31. Thelma Curry (2006)
32. Bob Nations (2007)
33. Steve Scruggs (2007)
34. Linda Christian (2007)
35. Bobby Pettit (2007)
36. Robert Mongue (2007)
37. Carl and Brenda Jensen (2007)
38. Daniel Reep (2007)